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LETTER DATED 25 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that when the Vietnamese ship Kwang Myong, laden with 4,000 tons of detergent imported from Viet Nam under the terms of the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the United Nations, was in sight of Iraqi territorial waters on its way to Iraq, the United States navy subjected it to a search. The crew was interrogated over a period of three days and nights before being ordered either to turn back and abandon its journey to Iraq, or throw into the sea some electrical equipment (a refrigerator, a television, a video and a piano), which was the property of the ship's crew. Pursuant to that order, the crew and the United States forces threw the electrical equipment into the sea.

We request you to intervene with the Government of the United States with a view to halting these provocative actions and the obstacles being raised to the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the United Nations, and in order to ensure that the articles approved by the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) are delivered and that such actions are not repeated, as they constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the precepts of international law. We assert the right of Iraq to compensation for the damage caused by such acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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